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Subject: REVISED: Drinking Water report from V. Binetti

Drinking Water

The chemical leak into the Elk River impacted 100,000 customers (estimated 300,000 people) of the WV American Water Company (WVAWC) Kanawha Valley plant. On January 9, the State of West Virginia declared a State of Emergency for nine counties and issued an order not to use the water for any purpose other than toilet flushing and fire fighting. Using available toxicological data, the CDC/ATSDR determined that a concentration of 1 ppm 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol (MCHM) in drinking water would be protective of public health.

As the contaminant source has come under control, levels at the water plant intake have declined. After 24 hours of consistent readings of MCHM < 1 ppm post-treatment, sampling began in the distribution system on 1/11/14. Results indicate that levels in the pressure zone nearest the treatment are below the 1 ppm benchmark, and the Governor and WVAMC announced that, as of Noon today, customers in that zone may resume unrestricted use of water after flushing their homes/buildings. Explicit instructions for flushing premises have been posted at the WVAWC website, <http://www.amwater.com/wvaw/about-us/news.html> Sampling and, pending sampling results < 1ppm MCHM, relaxation of the use restrictions will proceed through successive pressure zones in the large and complex water system over the next several days. As many as ten laboratories (those of West Virginia state agencies, WVAMC, National Guard Civil Support and contractors) are processing samples to support the effort.